

Safety Education

Charged with increasing public awareness of highway driver safety, the Safety Education division develops, promotes, and coordinates a wide range of activities that have in common the advancement of public safety. An additional mandated service of this division is to regulate commercial driving schools. This division also provides administrative oversight for the MREP, D.A.R.E, and G.R.E.A.T. programs.

During FY 2004-2005, this division has sponsored, conducted, or participated in 3,343 programs promoting driver safety and serving 115,244 individuals in Tennessee and the surrounding areas. Safety Education is a critical component for improving highway safety. Working through the department's Public Information Officer, the Safety Education program uses the media, pamphlets, film, video tapes and other instructional materials to educate the motoring public in the safe operation of vehicles.

Utilizing local and statewide crash data, this division developed appropriate safety messages and safety training events. Proper use of Child Restraint Device (CRD) demonstrations, rollover simulations, and fatal vision goggle demonstrations were held at schools, malls, fairs, and other special events throughout the state to promote driver safety issues. By partnering with the Governor's Highway Safety Office, the division has been able to launch intensive DUI campaigns. Other partnerships, such as that with Vanderbilt University for CRD demonstrations, were formed to get driver education messages out to a wide-ranging audience.



The Safety Education Division annually inspects the private driving schools and vehicles statewide that are licensed by the department. There are a total of twenty-six (26) driving schools statewide, with one hundred forty (140) instructors, and a total of seventy-two (72) vehicles. Related commercial driving school regulatory duties include processing applications and fielding calls from individuals who are interested in starting a private industry driving school.

Litter Control

Another responsibility of this division is the coordination of Litter Control educational activities and the THP's eight (8) Litter Control Officers. The Litter Control unit educates the general public about litter problems and the state laws related to this issue. Activities of the litter enforcement personnel are submitted to the Safety Education office each month to compile statistical data. During FY 2004-2005, litter enforcement personnel sponsored, participated, or conducted 3,925 programs that served approximately 18,970 people.

Alternative Commercial Enforcement Strategies (ACES)

Enforcement alone cannot accomplish our commercial vehicle highway safety goals. There must be education of the industry and a “buy-in” or partnership with the highest organizational level of the trucking industry. The Alternative Commercial Enforcement Strategies (ACES) program was formed to educate safety directors, maintenance professionals and drivers in the necessary compliance with laws and regulations. The division recognizes emphasis on safety must come from the highest level of the trucking organizations and companies before the awareness and emphasis would be observed at the driver level.

The ACES program performs many functions, but its main priority is education of all interested parties. During FY 2004-2005, this division has sponsored, conducted, or participated in 3,444 programs promoting driver safety and serving 185,617 individuals in Tennessee and the surrounding areas.



ACES Officers:

- Provide complete educational contacts to motor carriers at no cost to the carrier
- Assist motor carriers in problem compliance areas (drug testing, medical qualifications of drivers, hours of service, vehicle maintenance, etc.)
- Assist clerical personnel with record keeping requirements, driver files, and maintenance files
- Provide demonstrations of vehicle inspection procedures
- Assist carriers with questions concerning hazardous materials, weight requirements, over-dimensional movements, registration of vehicles, and International Fuel Tax laws
- Serve as liaisons between industry and private sector
- Conduct programs for civic groups concerning the “NO-ZONE” program, and other safety issues concerning commercial vehicles
- Educate school systems on the “NO-ZONE” and “Share the Road” programs.

ACES Officers are trained to perform safety audits of trucking companies. The audits, upon completion, are forwarded to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and the motor carrier is issued a safety rating based on the audit and other safety factors. This rating is very important to the companies as their insurance rates are based on their safety rating.

D.A.R.E.

Mandated as the lead agency in Tennessee for Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.), the Department provides a unit comprised of six (6) Troopers and a THP Sergeant to implement the statewide D.A.R.E. program and help educators reduce drug usage in young people and gang and individual violence through developing advisory guidelines and teaching in Tennessee's public schools. With administrative oversight from the Safety Education division, programs are able to provide representatives for each of the THP districts. Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) is still being taught by the Department's D.A.R.E. unit, but due to a grant that expired with no departmental funding to replace it, only 1 Trooper is now certified to teach G.R.E.A.T. and does so only on a very limited basis. G.R.E.A.T. has not been a primary function of the unit since 2001.

The reputation of the Department's D.A.R.E. unit is well recognized and appreciated throughout the state, nation, and the world. Since January 1990, the number of officers trained by the D.A.R.E. unit has increased to approximately 1,020 statewide. The unit also is frequently called upon to assist D.A.R.E. America and D.A.R.E. International in its national and international training and certification.

By statute (TCA Title 49, Chapter 1, Part 4), the Tennessee Department of Safety, through the Highway Patrol, is the agency responsible for the continuing observation and evaluation of all certified D.A.R.E. officers within Tennessee. Currently, Tennessee has approximately 370 certified D.A.R.E. officers throughout the state. These officers are responsible for instructing some 51,000 fifth and sixth grade students, 6,500 junior high/middle school students, 2,000 senior high school students, and 20,000 K-4 students in 118 of the state's 139 school districts. Annually, the unit observes and evaluates city, county, and state D.A.R.E. officers while they are instructing in schools, thus assuring competency and faithfulness to the copyrighted D.A.R.E. curricula. The D.A.R.E. Troopers personally contact D.A.R.E. classroom teachers to see if the D.A.R.E. Unit could be of any assistance to them or their D.A.R.E. officer in Tennessee's elementary, middle, and high schools.

In FY 2004-2005, the basic D.A.R.E. training incorporates a new elementary and middle school curriculum as well as provides school-based law enforcement (SRO) training to the basic D.A.R.E. Officer Training. Because of the new curricula, all certified D.A.R.E. officers in Tennessee had to go through a recertification process in order to continue teaching D.A.R.E. The D.A.R.E. unit accomplished this complete revision and recertification in three phases. Phases I and II have been completed for all certified Tennessee D.A.R.E. officers. The Phase III training, on-line testing through St. Petersburg College in Florida, is still in progress.

In this fiscal year, the unit again hosted the D.A.R.E. America National Conference and In-Service. Approximately 1,500 D.A.R.E. officers plus their families from around the world attended the conference. The conference took place July 6 – 10, 2004 at the Opryland Hotel. The last conference hosted by the Unit was at the Opryland Hotel in 2000 and the next will be in July 2007.



2004-2005 Accomplishments (State)

- Two (2) 80-hour basic D.A.R.E. Officer Trainings (October 2004 and June 2005), resulting in a total of 49 new local city, county D.A.R.E. Officers being certified to instruct the elementary and middle school D.A.R.E. curricula. These officers were also trained as school-based law enforcement officers, commonly referred to as School Resource Officers or SRO's. Included in the newly trained officers were 3 military police officers that teach in the DoDDs (Department of Defense Dependent Schools) schools on US military bases throughout the world, 1 from the City of London Police, UK, and officers from Texas, Wyoming, and Indiana.

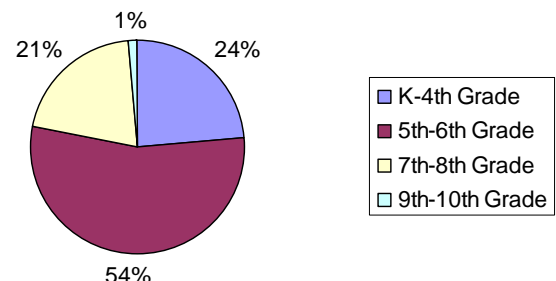


**Trooper Jerry Duncan handing out D.A.R.E. items at a D.A.R.E. display at Fort Campbell, KY*

- Conducted a specialized, 32-hour D.A.R.E. Senior High School training in Gatlinburg, TN in April 2005. During this training event 16 instructors from Tennessee and North Carolina were certified to teach the D.A.R.E. Senior High School curriculum in the public schools.

- Coordinated and supervised training for the Tennessee D.A.R.E. Officers Conference and In-service in Nashville from July 6-10, 2004. This training was included as part of the D.A.R.E. America National Conference and In-service held in Nashville this year.
- Instructed 11,765 fifth and sixth grade students, 4,438 middle school students, 310 senior high school students, and approximately 5,127 K-4th graders in the D.A.R.E. program
- Instructed 6,046 seventh and eighth grade students in the G.R.E.A.T. Middle School program plus 108 K-5 students.

School Children Receiving D.A.R.E. Instruction
FY 2004-2005
(Total = 21,640 Tennessee Children)



2004-2005 Accomplishments (National/International)

- One (1) 80-hour basic D.A.R.E. Officer Training was taught by 6 members of the D.A.R.E. Unit in Bangkok, Thailand at the request of D.A.R.E. International and the United States State Department. The training occurred in June 2005. 36 officers from the Royal Thai Police were certified to teach D.A.R.E. in their local provinces. During this training, the D.A.R.E. Unit also trained eight Royal Thai mentors to run their own trainings in the future.
- Provided 1 instructor to assist D.A.R.E. America in a specialized, 32-hour D.A.R.E. SRO/ Middle School training in Lake Charles, Louisiana. During this training event 30 instructors from Louisiana were trained.
- Provided one instructor to assist D.A.R.E. International at a 80-hour D.A.R.E. Officer Training in Wiesbaden, Germany. This training was for 36 military police officers teaching D.A.R.E. for DoDDs throughout the European Theater.
- Provided one instructor to assist D.A.R.E. America at a D.A.R.E. Mentor Officer Training in Boise, Idaho. This training was for 24 D.A.R.E. officers from throughout the United States, training them to be able to teach in D.A.R.E. Officer Trainings in their home states.



*Trooper Scott Staggs at a D.A.R.E. display and training in Bangkok, Thailand



- Taught the following:
 - 80-hour D.A.R.E. Officer Trainings – 49 (US); 72 (International)
 - D.A.R.E. Middle School – 30 (State); 1 (International)
 - D.A.R.E. Senior High School - 16 (State & US)
 - D.A.R.E. America Mentor Training – 24
 - State D.A.R.E. In-service – 125
 - U.S. D.A.R.E. In-service – 1,500

Motorcycle Rider Education Program (MREP)

The Tennessee Motorcycle Rider Education Program (MREP) is responsible for establishing standards and administering the motorcycle rider education program for Tennessee residents who currently ride or those interested in learning to ride motorcycles safely. Motorcycle rider safety courses are available to all persons 14 years of age or older. Continuing a four-year trend, the MREP experienced a significant growth in program participation. In FY 2004-2005, 6,887 Tennesseans enrolled in one of the two rider education programs across the state. This represents a 13.4% increase in program participation over the last fiscal year.



Using the Motorcycle Safety Foundation's (MSF) curricula, the Motorcycle Rider Education Program provides rider training programs for novice and experienced riders. The Basic Rider (BRC) and Experienced Rider courses (ERC) are taught in safe, off street environments where students learn and practice riding fundamentals as well as motorcycle safety techniques. A riding evaluation and a written test are administered at the end of each rider course. Benefits of completing one of the courses include insurance premium discounts and streamlined processing for the motorcycle license endorsement. With a certificate, those who apply for this endorsement on their driver license have both their knowledge and skills test waived in Tennessee.

This program is also responsible for recruiting, training, certifying, and evaluating new instructors as well as developing new training sites. Currently there are 23 motorcycle-training sites available to the public.

MREP also aids local and state law enforcement agencies by providing them with training and information on enforcement issues such as proper personal protective equipment, proper license endorsements and unique alcohol and drug related behavior of motorcyclists. Promoting motorcycle safety awareness activities is another responsibility of the Department's MREP.

The MREP website continues to generate additional interest and has increased the exposure for the MREP, both within and outside the State of Tennessee.

2004-2005 Accomplishments and Highlights

- Trained and certified thirty-eight (38) new Rider Coaches across Tennessee this year. Continued to assist local and state law enforcement by providing any motorcycle related information requested.
- Conducted yearly update for all instructors across Tennessee as part of the annual requirements and continuing development for participation in the program. There were 156 rider coaches in attendance at Montgomery Bell State Park in January 2005. Continued to update the program web site with changes made by site coordinators throughout the year.
- Assisted military programs at Fort Campbell with the Site Coordinator/Instructor for that program being nationally recognized as Rider Coach Trainer of the year by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation. The program also assisted the military unit at Millington in starting their program to comply with U.S.D.O.D. requirements. Recently we were requested by the State Headquarters of the Tennessee Army National Guard to assist with a state wide program to achieve D.O.D. compliance and this will be further developed in the next year.
- The program is in the process of developing an Adopt a School participation in Murfreesboro with the assistance of Sloan's Motorcycle dealership there. In conjunction with this effort new sites will be set up at the schools involved to enhance training in the area. This is a development that could be expanded state wide in an effort to make training even more available.
- The program made a \$15,000 grant to ABATE of Tennessee in order to enhance awareness of Motorcycle Safety Month in May 2005. Ads were purchased in the four largest cities mass transit companies and displayed on buses for the month. There were also several billboards used across the state to increase awareness.
- Purchased thirty six (36) new training motorcycles and distributed them to sites across the state to ensure safety and continued top quality equipment. Small training motorcycles are becoming harder to purchase as the companies have devoted production to larger better selling motorcycles.

